GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4321
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2001
ENCROACHMENTS AND NON FOREST ACTIVITIES ON GREEN BELT
SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item Captioned `Encroachment, non-forest activities take toll on S. Delhi `green` belt` appearing in `The Indian Express` dated August 8, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the proposal of the Government/DDA to restore this forest and quantum of funds allocated for the purpose;

(d) whether the areas declared as `green belt` by DDA are facing the same situation and DDA is not maintaining green belt area properly and also not removing encroachments from this area;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the quantum of green belt area/forest area in Delhi and the area out of this has been neglected and fallen prey to encroachment and felling of trees?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT & POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that two very old encroachments exist in the said City Forests in the shape of:

(i) Temple and Garage (known as Ravi Dass Temple); and

(ii) One Tax stand

Both the cases are under litigation.

Apart from this, the portions of boundary wall are damaged by trespassers. They are restored on regular basis.

(c): Addition of trees is a regular annual feature. This year about 3000 saplings have already been planted. DDA has a budget provision of Rs.90 lakhs for maintenance of the City Forest area during 2001-02.

(d)&(e): The green areas under the DDA are being maintained properly. No new encroachment is being allowed to come up within the green areas. It is also taking steps for removal of encroachments and relocation of jhuggi clusters from green areas.

(f): The total green area/forest area under the jurisdiction of DDA is 11166.02 acres. The approximate area under encroachment is 309 acres.